

Ezhuvas, not attempted to be replied by saying that—the Hon'ble Member conceded that jemmies not accepting the payment to the Sirkar as valid tender, cases, a few of them according to the Hon'ble Member, but a very good many according to me, are in Court—and the observation made by the Hon'ble Member was that the result of the judgment of the case is awaited, as if there are no other methods to enforce such payments as valid tender. The Government which spends large quantities of paper and typewriting material for issuing these instructions which are not acted upon, could as well order in appropriate methods that payments made by the tenants or jemmies on their behalf to the Sirkar for which a voucher is taken shall be considered as valid tender, if a sentence is written like that, will it be difficult, will it not be accepted. When practical things are placed before the Government, they try to shelve the issue by saying, we are watching how the different Courts will be disposing of this matter. One Judge may be observing that it is valid tender, another Judge might say it is not valid tender, and the only remedy is to take the matter to the final Court in appeal and be satisfied with the decision it gives. The whole thing can be avoided by the executive action of the Government. Such simple matters not being thought of and done do not become of a civilised Government or a responsive Government.

Then, with regard to the dealings with the bigger class of the tenants or rather the landlords. My first charge is favouritism is shown towards them and it is—attempted to be answered that in the matter of the specific instance pointed out by me, the manipulation of accounts, it is conceded that possibilities of manipulations do exist. The answer is that three years' accounts are gone into and on the basis of that allowance is given. It is only 3 years ago, or almost more than 2 years ago, that we started commandeering, and for the three years of course we know what those accounts are.

Then with regard to the existence of black-marketing in paddy, it was conceded that paddy left for personal consumption is sent on to the black-market. That is exactly why I say that absolutely no paddy should be left with these bigger folk unnecessarily. It is that paddy that goes to the black-market is the specific charge that I laid, and it is conceded by the Government. It is said that carefully scrutiny of the accounts—of the manipulated accounts—is made. What is the method that is adopted to see whether there are real facts shown, except that the Tahsildar pleases himself by going over such accounts or causes that to be gone into by his subordinates. What is the method adopted by you to show whether these entries in the account books show the actual disbursement in kind for the various items shown there. At the supplementary question time, I was trying to point out that for the purchase of various articles, a few of which had been mentioned by me, entries of 50 paras, etc., are shown and that is given credit for. Even if paddy in kind is paid, instead of 50, 5 paras might have been paid and the balance of 45 paras goes into the black-market. You do not deny my charge. I am very much obliged for that. Therefore, my submission to the House is the charges levelled against the Government in the matter of grain purchasing process are almost conceded by the Government and a futile attempt is made to explain them away. But futile attempts will remain only futile, but instead of that I do not want to administer a defeat. I will leave the subject with you for your lenient consideration and if possible to be acted upon. The Council is not going to end. It will meet again in Karkadagam. If things are not rectified in time and to the tune of the necessity of the case, proper action will be taken, can be taken and be rest assured, will be taken by the Council.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): By the new Council.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Yes, by the new Council, a more vigorous one, and rather a better one than the present one. Certainly that is the hope and my hope will be realised. So, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn

Demand put and carried

16. Rs. 8,000 under "29-A 1—Civil Engineering—T. A."

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (Joint Secretary to Government): Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 8,000 under "29-A1-Civil Engineering—T. A.". The sanctioned allotment under travelling allowance (Civil Engineering) for the current year is Rs. 16,610 and that for Mechanical Engineering is Rs. 3,500. Due to the journeys and halts of officers of the Public Works Department in connection with the recent visits of His Excellency the Viceroy and His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, the creation of additional posts, etc., these amounts have become quite insufficient. I request the House may be pleased to vote the grant.

Demand put and carried

2-12-1945